

CEO E-Briefing

A weekly report to City Council and the community



August 12, 2011

No. 8

COSTA MESA



RESTAURANT WEEK

August 19-26, 2011

Costa Mesa's first restaurant week starts to dish next Friday

We only have three more days to experience **OC Fair** and sample its culinary delights, but you foodies don't have to suffer withdrawals for too long. The inaugural **Costa Mesa Restaurant Week** begins next Friday!

During the 8-day event, diners will get some incredible bargains at a wide range of Costa Mesa restaurants, with prix fixe menus starting at \$10.11 for lunch and \$19.11 for dinner.

The participating restaurants are too numerous to name here, but they run from the high-end **Charlie Palmer** in **South Coast Plaza** to the family-run **Mi Casa** on E. 17th Street. You can **look online** to view the list of the restaurants and their special Restaurant Week menus.

The timing couldn't be better for Costa Mesa's first restaurant week. First, Costa Mesa was just honored by **USA Today/Rand McNally** as having best food of any small town west of the Mississippi River. And second, warm August nights—with the children still on vacation—are a perfect time for eating out, especially with the City's restaurateurs offering special menus and prices.

This, I'm sure, will be the start of a wonderful Costa Mesa tradition.

Tom Hatch, chief executive officer, City of Costa Mesa

On the calendar this week

Aug 12 **TODAY** The **OC Fair** continues through Sunday ... Orange County Classic Jazz Festival continues today and Saturday (9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.) and Sunday (9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) at the **Hilton Costa Mesa**.

Aug 15 **MONDAY** Town Hall Meeting with Wendy Leece ... **Keeping Costa Mesa Safe** (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.) at the Neighborhood Community Center.

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☒ **Comments**
or suggestions, please contact
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City of Costa Mesa



Costa Mesa City Hall

CEO's Office

Costa Mesa wins slice of \$1.1 million grant from utility companies

The cities of Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Westminster and Fountain Valley have been awarded a \$1.1 million grant from Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas to enact energy-saving measures at their facilities.

The four-city collaborative—called the Orange County Cities Energy Leader Partnership—was formed through an application process with the California Public Utility Commission and provides resources to help the cities eliminate energy waste.

The grant will help pay for the fine tuning of Costa Mesa's existing green energy policy and will allow staff to enact the most up-to-date energy-saving methods and practices. The money will also fund the installation of a cutting-edge energy management software system that will allow the City to track each electrical meter on a monthly basis in order to analyze energy usage and recommend the best rate through Edison.

Notes from the CEO's Office

The Council Chambers will soon feature a wireless Internet connection to assist journalists reporting on public meetings there ... It's hope that it will be installed by the Sept. 6 meeting ... A reminder: No City Council meetings until Sept. 6 ... You can check out the latest episode of [@thefair](#) with our **Dane Bora** and the OC Fair's **Steve Beazley** [here](#) ... At its Sept. 6 meeting, the Council is expected to decide whether Costa Mesa will spend about \$1.5 million to opt-in with the state to keep its Redevelopment Agency ... The money for the payment would come from the **Redevelopment Agency** itself ...

Public Services



Bike trail wins Mesa Green Design Award

The Planning Commission this week awarded the Mesa Green Design Award to the new Joann Street Bike Trail project that can be seen along Harbor Boulevard adjacent to the Costa Mesa Country Club, and will be handing out the award at its meeting of Sept. 12.

\$225,000 grant awarded for the Fairview Park

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Grants and Local Services recently announced that the **Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project** has been awarded a \$225,000 Habitat Conservation Grant. The money will be used to plant 10 acres of native habitat and irrigation as part of the phase II improvements.

The Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat project is designed to restore historic habitat types of the Santa Ana River, increase water quality of wet and dry season runoff and diversify open space recreation.

Current Phase II improvements include the completion of constructed wetland ponds and water delivery system, a multipurpose trail, fencing, interpretative signage, and twenty three acres of native habitat plantings and an irrigation system. Construction is scheduled to begin this month and continue until August 2012. For more information, please contact **Ernesto Munoz**, city engineer, at (714) 754-5335.



Administrative Services



City bounces security deposit for park-goers

The Recreation Division will no longer require bounce-house deposits from park-goers having inflatable attractions at parties held in city parks. The damage deposits will now be paid by the bounce-house companies.

The deposits are used in case of damage to the park from the set-up or tear-down of the bounce house. The Recreation Division was accepting approximately 20 bounce-house deposits per month.

An average of just one bounce-house deposit per year was used to repair Park damage. Beginning this month, a damage deposit from bounce-house companies on the Recreation Division's approved bounce-house list will be held on deposit with the City.

Fire Department

Costa Mesa's Urban Search and Rescue teams help save life of beachgoer

Last week, a teenager from Virginia found himself buried head first in seven feet of sand near 54th Street in Newport Beach. **Matt Mina** was digging a hole when it collapsed, leaving only an air pocket for him to breath.



Newport Beach lifeguards and firefighters rushed to the scene and immediately requested two **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)** teams to assist them with the rescue. **Costa Mesa's Type I USAR team** responded with an additional engine company and was on scene within 10 minutes. The professional rescuers with the help of some beachgoers were able to dig Mina out of the sand after about 30 minutes. Miraculously he was uninjured.

Costa Mesa's Urban Search and Rescue team was founded nine years ago and responds to all types of emergency calls, including structure fires, vehicle extrication, emergency medical aid, heavy rescues, confined space rescues, trench rescues, and swift water rescues.

Police Department



Read the graffiti on the wall

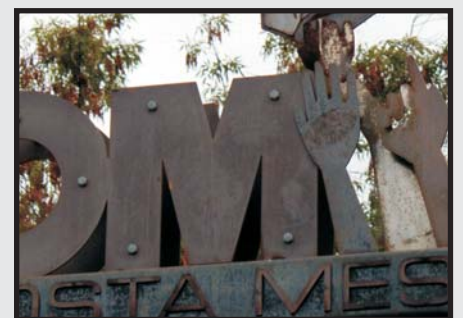
You may qualify for a reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person committing graffiti offenses. If you see this crime in progress, call 9-1-1. You can also report existing graffiti that needs cleaning up to the Graffiti Hotline at (714) 327-7491. Claim forms may be obtained at City Hall and the Police Department. For further information, contact **Sgt. Keith Davis** at (714) 754-5053.

Secret Spot

Somewhere in Costa Mesa you might recognize this bit of local scenery.

Hint: This place might bowl you over.

To get the whole picture, see [page 4](#).



Development Services

PBS SoCal's smooth move to Costa Mesa

PBS SoCal's (formerly KOCE-TV) move to Costa Mesa continues its steady progress with building permits issued last week for its new headquarters at 3080 Bristol St. Near the 405 Freeway.

With reviews and permits in place, the 6,372 square feet of interior tenant improvements are ready to begin. The work includes the removal and replacement of non-load bearing walls, ceiling, exterior doors, finishes and millwork. These improvements are valued at \$714,000, and provide PBS SoCal—the premiere PBS station in Southern California—with state-of-the-art studios.



Development Services notes

On-going changes at **South Coast Plaza** include the issuance of building permits last week for 6,007 square feet of tenant improvements for **Cartier** ... The work, which will begin soon, includes the construction of a storefront with a new entry, the addition of partition walls, new ceilings, fixtures, finishes, wash basins and a water closet ... The value of this development is \$650,000 ... Last week, **Beacon Bay Enterprises Inc.** submitted plans for plan check review for the proposed construction of three buildings for a self-storage facility with grading and site improvement plans ... The self storage facility will be at 2059 Harbor Blvd. and will have a project value of approximately \$2 million.

Making History

Vanguard University's gymnasium was formerly used as a:

- A. Library.
- B. Serviceman's club.
- C. Garage.
- D. Orange Coast College's gym.
- E. Theatre.



Answer: B and D. The Vanguard Gymnasium building was formerly used during World War II as a Cadet Servicemen's Club at the **Santa Ana Army Air Base**. After the war it was purchased by **Orange Coast College** and converted to a gymnasium. In the 1960's Vanguard (then called Southern California College) purchased it and moved the building to its current site.



Secret Spotted

Volcom Skate Park of Costa Mesa, opened to the public in 2005, features street elements such as stairs, ledges, and rails, and has a kidney-shape pool and one bowl. The skatepark at Arlington and Junipero drives is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily (closed Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for maintenance).

Skaters are required to wear a helmet and knee and elbow pads.